

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A triggered response barrier composition comprising: one or more polyelectrolytes multi-stage emulsion polymers that comprise in contact with an aqueous system that is stable and insoluble in an aqueous system at relatively high ionic strength and that exhibits one or more chemical/physical responses selected from dispersing, disintegrating, dissolving, destabilizing, swelling, deforming, softening, flowing and combinations thereof upon one or more ionic strength changes to the aqueous system; wherein the polyelectrolyte comprises (a) 70-99 weight percent of an alkali soluble/swellable emulsion polymer as a first stage; and (b) 1 to 30 weight percent of a more cross-linked alkali soluble/swellable emulsion polymer or a non- alkali soluble/swellable emulsion polymer as a second stage; wherein the multi-stage emulsion polymer surrounds, encapsulates or forms a matrix with one or more active ingredients and the multi-stage emulsion polymer disperses, disintegrates, dissolves, destabilizes, swells, deforms, softens, flows or combinations thereof, releasing the one or more active ingredients to an aqueous system as a result of a change in ionic strength of the aqueous system.
2. Cancelled
3. (Currently amended) The triggered response barrier composition according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein the aqueous system is a fabric washing or cleaning system and wherein the one or more active ingredients are selected from the group consisting of: fabric softeners, fabric softener formulations, cationic, anionic, amphoteric and non-ionic surfactants, fragrances and combinations thereof the chemical/physical response of the polymers is a function of changes in one or more parameters in addition to ionic strength selected from: pH, surfactant concentration level, temperature, mechanical agitation and the combinations thereof.
4. Cancelled

5. (Currently amended) The triggered response barrier composition according to claim [[4]] 1, wherein the multi-stage emulsion polymer first stage is prepared by polymerizing one or more monomers selected from the group consisting of: acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, ethyl acrylate, ethyl methacrylate, methyl methacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, butyl acrylate, butyl methacrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate, 2-hydroxybutyl methacrylate; styrene, vinyltoluene, t-butylstyrene, isopropylstyrene, and p-chlorostyrene; vinyl acetate, vinyl butyrate, vinyl caprolate; acrylonitrile, methacrylonitrile, butadiene, acrylic or methacrylic acid esters of a C₁₂-C₂₄ alkyl monoether of a polyalkylene glycol having from 6 to 70 oxyalkylene units, cetyl-stearyl(ethyleneoxide)₂₀ methacrylate and diallyl phthalate and wherein the multi-stage emulsion polymer second stage is prepared by polymerizing one or more monomers selected from the group consisting of: methylmethacrylate, styrene, allylmethacrylate, diallyl phthalate and butylene glycol diacrylate barrier composition is in the form of a film and the polyelectrolyte is one or more multi stage polymers comprising (a) 70-99 weight percent of an alkali soluble/swellable emulsion polymer as a first stage; and (b) 1 to 30 weight percent of a highly cross linked emulsion polymer as a second stage.

Claims 6-9 have been cancelled.

10. (New) The triggered response barrier composition according to claim 1, having 80-95 weight percent of the alkali soluble/swellable emulsion polymer, which has 0.01-5 weight percent of one or more polyethylenically unsaturated monomer units; and 5-20 weight percent of the more cross-linked alkali soluble/swellable emulsion polymer, which has 0.1-10 weight percent of one or more polyethylenically unsaturated monomer units.